

Members of the Committee:

My name is Mary Sahl and I live 1.4 miles from the proposed Abercrombie Dairy. I urge you to give this bill a "Do not Pass" and I am in opposition to this bill for the reasons cited below.

There are numerous health concerns associated with CAFO's at the current set-back distance of 1 mile. These are not normal feed lot operations. These Industrial businesses need to be categorized as such, taxed as such, and held responsible to the levels of Industrial operations like other Industrial businesses in our state. Currently CAFO's have been known to increase miscarriages and increase risk of cancer to sites/residences surrounding them.

To think we can quantify smell, and have smell be the determining factor in set-back distances is ludicrous. We were told numerous times while touring the Tenney, Minnesota Dairy that "smell is objective, and cannot be measured." I find it curious that all of a sudden it is found quantified and measurable. And now, there is a legislative bill saying that 6% of the time it is ok to have smell be so bad that we cannot go outside, that also equals about 22 days each year. The odor footprint the township should have discretion to regulate is an odor footprint up to 98%. Cities should also be allowed extra territorial zoning of one mile for low density agriculture.

When I attended the Farmers Union meeting this year in Bismarck, I was told the Farmers Union had known about this project for over three years. The citizens of Abercrombie did not know about this project until a year ago. It is scary to think that people than our community members were planning our futures.

Dangerous gases are emitted from over 1 million pounds of manure, along with flying dry manure and other noxious fumes. Industrial Ag is not a small matter, it has many consequences felt by communities in other states such as Iowa and Arizona (<https://www.hcn.org/issues/53-8/agriculture-a-mega-dairy-is-transforming-arizona-s-aquifer-and-farming-lifestyles/>). In addition, I have already been taxed for the drainage ditch created for the dairy. It is ditch #1 and it will already cost me \$600 for a ditch that does not help drain my grounds, but since my land is nearby, it is being taxed. I'm sure this will also not be a one time tax. I am very nervous to think of the amount of infrastructure that will be needed for roads, bridges etc. in our community. We have heard from various citizens in Dumont, MN that the road traffic and damage to the roads was very disruptive and damaging to the area citizens.

Economic factors are all lined up for CAFO's and the state of Minnesota. Precision Ag is set to support building of a cheese factory in Morris Minnesota. All they need is 50,000 cows to get the plant up and running. Minnesota will get all our free water, all our land to spread manure on, and the state of ND does not get any revenue except the price of a crop of corn off the proposed site. All the processing income in Morris from the proposed cheese plant will go to the state of Minnesota. Why would anyone in ND think this is good economic practice for our state? A central milk and cheese processing plant in central ND would make more economic sense.

We as citizens of this state per the century code are supposed to be #1 on the list for clean water and appropriations. There should be protection for local resident's wells, but there is no governing body to guarantee our rights. We should also be able to breathe clean air, it is the one thing ND citizens are proud of. That is being taken away from us as well. Why should any ND citizen pay taxes on land that becomes uninhabitable? Why would anyone in ND feel safe anymore in a rural setting? I urge you to have a "Do Not Pass" for this bill.  
Thank you